

Washington, D.C. - Today, Rep. Luján introduced a resolution congratulating Taos Pueblo on the return of its sacred Blue Lake lands. This week marks the 40th anniversary of the signing of legislation that returned 48,000 acres of land, almost half of the modern Taos region, to the pueblo.

"Today is an important day not only for the Taos Pueblo, but for the principle of tribal sovereignty and the state of New Mexico. From the Pueblo Revolt in 1680 to the return of Blue Lake in 1970, the history of Taos Pueblo is deeply interwoven within that of New Mexico and reflects their dedication to their land and people," said Rep. Luján. "This week, I am proud to join Taos Pueblo in celebrating its rich and beautiful history and to congratulate them on this important event."

Blue Lake, or Ba Whyea, holds religious and historical significance for the people of Taos Pueblo. In 1906, the United States government placed Blue Lake and the surrounding land under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, limiting access and use for the pueblo. After 64 years of judicial and legislative disputes, a bipartisan bill was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Nixon, returning the land. This Saturday, Rep. Luján will celebrate this anniversary at St. Jerome Church in Taos Pueblo.